



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police arrest father and son in driveway paving scam

Arrest warrant issued for third related suspect

Howard County police have arrested a father and son in connection with a driveway paving scam that occurred last month in Laurel. Police have issued an arrest warrant for a third suspect and are seeking the public's help in locating him.

Paul Frank, 48, and his son, Spanky Frank, 19, have each been charged with four counts of selling home improvements without a license and acting as a contractor without a license. They were arrested March 11 in Prince George's County without incident. An arrest warrant has been issued for a third suspect, Ace Frank, 22, (family relationship unknown) on the same charges. While all three Franks have permanent residences out of state, police believe they have been staying at a residence in the 8600 block of Contee Road in Laurel.

In recent years, police and consumer affairs representatives have investigated scams for driveway paving services in which criminals complete substandard work or don't finish the job, charge higher prices than agreed upon or steal from the victim's homes.

In February, homeowners at four residences in Laurel -- three in the 9600 block of Baltimore Avenue, one in the 8600 block of Tower Drive -- were solicited by men later identified as Paul Frank, Spanky Frank and Ace Frank, for driveway re-sealing services. In each case, the men charged higher than the agreed upon prices, the work was completed poorly and no receipt was provided.

Through investigation, it was revealed that on several occasions, Spanky Frank, Paul Frank and Ace Frank purchased what appeared to be black paint at paint stores and then poured an unspecified amount of gasoline into the black paint and used this mixture to 're-seal' the driveways of their customers. Detectives further learned that none of the Franks possessed contractor licenses as required by the State of Maryland.

Spanky Frank was released from the Howard County Detention Center on \$2,600 bond. Paul Frank was released on \$10,000 bond.

Police remind residents:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited offers and services.
- Don't feel pressured to make a decision on the spot.
- Contractors must be licensed to perform the work.
- Don't share personal or financial information.

If you recognize these suspects as having done work at your home, you were solicited for services or believe you may have been the victim of a scam, please contact police at 410-313-3200.

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